



# NYS Kinship Navigator

## Statewide Information and Resources

877-454-6463 [www.nysnavigator.org](http://www.nysnavigator.org)

### Grandparents, Relatives and Family Friends Caring for Children:

- Do you need financial assistance?
- Do you know your legal rights?
- Are you worried about how to care for a child?
- Are you looking for respite?

**We offer information, referrals, assistance and more.**

### Our Kinship Specialists want to help!

#### A Program of Catholic Family Center

87 N. Clinton Ave ~ Rochester, NY 14604

Phone: 877-454-6463

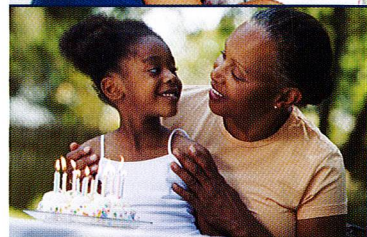
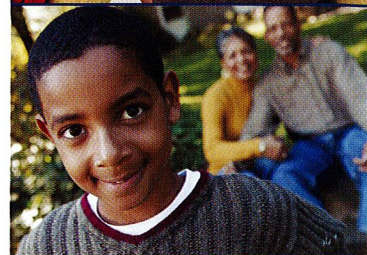
Fax: 585-454-6286

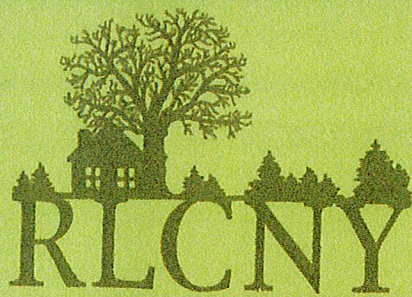
[www.nysnavigator.org](http://www.nysnavigator.org)

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Legal Information and Assistance for  
**Grandparents  
and Relatives  
Raising Children**

Rural Law Center of New York, Inc.

IF YOU ARE SEEKING CUSTODY  
OR GUARDIANSHIP OF CHILDREN  
IN YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY, THE  
RURAL LAW CENTER WILL ASSESS  
YOUR CASE AND WE MAY BE ABLE  
TO OFFER YOU FREE LEGAL HELP.

**CONTACT US**

You can call the Rural Law  
Center's Main Office at  
518-561-5460 (press 2)

-or-

Go online to our website:  
[www.rurallawcenter.org](http://www.rurallawcenter.org)  
Click on the box that says:  
"Online Legal Help" and fill  
out a simple form.



RURAL LAW CENTER OF NEW YORK, INC.

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## LEGAL HELP FOR RELATIVES CARING FOR CHILDREN

Many grandparents and others are providing safe care for children who are unable to live with their birth parents. Relatives and family friends who are known to the child, can often provide a safe and stable home. The Rural Law Center of New York is a non-profit, legal services organization with a mission to provide rural, low income New Yorkers more access to the legal system. Through our work we have observed that grandparents and relatives trying to raise their grandchildren need some legal help.

In these cases, the Family Court is often involved, and the grandparents and relatives must comply with Family Court law, in petitioning for custody or guardianship. To be successful in petitioning the court, these Petitioners need to create a document that is legally sufficient to be accepted by the court. Unfortunately, by statute, grandparents and other relatives are not absolutely entitled to an assigned attorney. And, without adequate legal information and case assessment, those well-meaning grandparents and relatives may have Petitions before the court that end up being dismissed. To address this need, the Rural Law Center has created a program specifically to provide grandparents and others with an individual case assessment, to provide information about the court process of seeking custody, and where warranted, to assist grandparents as they draft court documents.

You can help us reach these grandparents by providing them with the information on the enclosed flyer. You can tell them how to reach our office and connect with a member of our staff. Here are the two ways that we can be reached:

First, through our website: [www.rurallawcenter.org](http://www.rurallawcenter.org) and then click on "Online Legal Help" and complete the simple form.

Second, by telephone at: 518-561-5460. The caller will be given instruction about how to proceed.

Thank you so much for your help as we address this important legal need.

Susan L. Patnode  
Executive Director